

S.N.: 10/607,180
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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26 are currently pending. Claim 25 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 11, and 17 have been amended to incorporate the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 25. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

As all claims recite the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of claim 25, it is respectfully submitted that all claims 1-24 and 26 are in condition for allowance.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Menard, Oxley, Timbel, Nee, Luman, Hunter, Tognazzini, and/or Balachandran, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-24 and 26 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-24 and 26 is earnestly solicited.

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Sept 15, 2006
Date

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